

Local Restore Council
January 12, 2015
Milton, Florida

Present: Chairman Lane Lynchard, and members Shon Owens, Buzz Eddy, Dave Robau, Brian Watkins, Rob Williamson, Don Salter, Donna Tucker, Carole Tebay, and Cal Bodenstein. Also present were the County Administrator (Hunter Walker), County Engineer (Roger Blaylock), and County Attorney (Roy Andrews). Lynchard called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Lynchard moved approval without objection of the December 8, 2014 meeting minutes.

Update on NRDA, RESTORE, Gulf Consortium, Other:

Jeff Helms (Atkins) said today is the opening for solicitation of proposals. He made a power point presentation to the Board (Attachment in File). Helms said BP has appealed the ruling of gross negligence. He said on Friday the appeal was rejected. Helms said the next phase of the trial, which is the penalty phase, will begin next Tuesday. He said the Nature Conservancy has submitted a draft copy of the Pensacola Bay Community Based Water Shed Plan to County staff. Helms said this plan is a living document that will change. He said this plan will be proposed to the Bay Area Resource Council for endorsement. Helms said municipalities may want to add projects to this plan and endorse this document.

Williamson asked if the watershed is approved as a whole and funded in pot 2. Helms said there will be a process of selecting projects that have a material impact on the water quality of the bay. He said those projects will rise to the top.

Review of Technical Committee Members:

Helms reviewed the draft recommendation for the technical review team members. He said there will be a technical review team for each category: environmental, economic development, tourism, infrastructure and workforce development. Robau said he feels the University of West Florida can be an inclusion on the environmental team. Helms said that is an option. Salter asked why no colleges are included on the workforce development team. Helms said that can be looked into. Helms said the County is responsible and accountable for the funds. He said whoever is on the technical review team is up to this Council. Salter said he would like to have a conversation with Pensacola State College, as long as it does not create a conflict of interest.

Tucker asked what the technical review team will be doing. Helms said the technical review team will review each proposal based on criteria set by this council. He said the technical review team will grade each proposal. Helms said the applicant can indicate which category they feel the project will fit into and can select multiple pots. Lynchard said the technical review team will provide recommendations to this Council.

Eddy said there is no municipal representation on this technical review team. Lynchard said it may be possible to have a representative from the municipalities on the technical review teams. Walker said this can be done. He said turnaround time is a concern. Blaylock said when the project is submitted, the municipality has the criteria that the project will be scored by. Helms said the technical review teams can be finalized at the February meeting. Walker said he will have something for approval at the February meeting.

Tebay asked how all of the projects will be vetted for possible negative environmental impact. Helms said an environmental representative can be added to each category. He said Atkins has environmental experts on staff that can handle these concerns.

Owens asked if it is the technical review team's responsibility to notify the applicant which category their project will score the highest in. Helms said the applicant can check separate categories on the application to see which category the project grades highest. Owens said his concern is that an applicant may not know their project can qualify in two categories.

Williamson said Charlin Knight is the Director of Workforce Education for the Santa Rosa County School District. He said he feels Knight would be a logical choice to add to the technical review team if it is not a conflict of interest. Williamson asked if there is a benefit for having the

direct projects vetted and scored before other regulatory agencies have allocated funding. Williamson said some projects may be funded by other resources. He said he feels the time line is a bit rushed. Helms said he feels it is good to have a process and schedule. He said this helps identify more projects. Williamson said his concern is how community based groups will be able to put forth projects. He said he feels having the project submittal deadline in March seems too soon. Lynchard said the schedule is flexible. He said vetting the projects early gives the best opportunity for leveraging. Lynchard said this is the first multi-year implementation plan. Williamson said he is concerned about the scoring of county projects by county employees. Helms said that is where the Council will have the opportunity to vet the scoring by the technical review team. Lynchard said the direction to staff is to take another look at the technical review team. Williamson said he feels it may be beneficial to have two workshops instead of one. Lynchard said the participation in the first workshop will indicate the need for a second. Helms said the first workshop will be on February 9th which is the next Restore Council meeting.

Sheila Harris (Grants Coordinator) made a power point presentation to the Council regarding the County's Restore Act web page. She said if the applicant wants their project considered in two categories, it may behoove them to submit two proposals because the scoring criteria is different for each category.

Jessica Koelsch said she found the application confusing regarding which category the project will be reviewed in. She asked if there is a limit of categories that a project can be scored under. Koelsch said she would like an environmental review of all proposals. She asked if there is a decision regarding whether Council members will have to recuse themselves from reviewing a proposal if there is a conflict. Andrews said recusals will be based on private gain. Koelsch said some other counties are ahead in this process and some are behind.

Vernon Compton said trails are very important in relation to tourism. He said Helen Wigersma is the president of the local chapter of the Florida Trail Association. Wigersma said the primary responsibility of the local chapter is the maintenance of all of the trails, related to Florida National Scenic Trail and its side trail in Santa Rosa and Escambia County's. She said of the 108 miles, the chapter currently maintains 77% of these miles, in Santa Rosa County. Wigersma said her organization plans to submit an application for funding for trail enhancements. She said some of the proposed enhancements are boardwalks and bridges. Wigersma said such funding will boost the local economy.

By: Lane Lynchard, Chairman